

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7121

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, NI, US, UK, XA

SUBJ: FMG "REJECTS" ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIAN
SETTLEMENT

1. IN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OCTOBER 3, 1976, FMG SAID THAT AFTER
"CAREFUL THOUGHT" IT HAD FOUND U.S.-UK PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITU-
TIONAL SETTLEMENT OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM AS ELABORATED BY IAN SMITH
SEPT 24 "UNACCEPTABLE" AND "QUITE UNLIKELY TO ACHIEVE LASTING
PEACE IN ZIMBABWE." STATEMENT SAID ONLY EXCEPTION WAS ACCEPTANCE
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OF PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE, "WHICH SHOULD BE DULY REFLECTED

IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT."

2. FMG SAID PROPOSALS FAILED SATISFY THE MOST BASIC DEMONCRATIC PRINCIPLES BECAUSE:

(A) EQUALITY OF REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL OF STATES FOR SIX MILLION AFRICANS AND QUARTER OF A MILLION WHITES DISTORTED THE BARGAINING POSITION AND "ENDOWED" WHITE MINORITY WITH A VETO POWER; AND

(B) IT INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT IAN SMITH, THE REBEL LEADER, COULD NOW BE "...ENCOURAGED TO PRESIDE AS AN ARBITER OVER THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ZIMBABWEEN PEOPLE." THESE BASIC ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE CANNOT BE COMPROMISED AND ARE DISTORTION OF JUSTICE WHICH CANNOT FORM BASIS FOR LASTING SOLUTION.

3. FMG STATEMENT ALSO SAID NO LASTING SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND WHICH EXCLUDED THE LEADERS OF THE ZIMBABWEAN STRUGGLE IN THE FIELD, AS THOSE LEADERS "ARE THE ULTIMATE DECIDING FACTORS." FMG SAYS IT HAS BEEN THE ARMED STRUGGLE "...AS OPPOSED TO ALL OTHER SANCTIONS..." WHICH HAS BROUGHT "...TO SMITH AND HIS REGIME THE FULL AWARENESS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION." STATEMENT GOES ON TO ASSERT THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS "ONLY RECOGNIZE (THE) ZIMBABWE PEOPLE'S ARMY AS THE PERIPHERAL FACTOR IN THE NEGOTIATIONS." IN CIRCUMSTANCES, SAYS STATEMENT, FMG FULLY SUPPORTS THE DECISION OF THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE'S ARMY TO CONTINUE THE ARMED STRUGGLE "AGAINST FOREIGN DOMINATION AND RACIAL OPPRESSION."

4. FMG NOTED "WITH SATISFACTION" THE "CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE" FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS HAVE PLAYED IN SEEKING "A JUST, EQUITABLE AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY RACIAL INJUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA" AND RENEWED ITS DETERMINATION TO "CONTINUE TO EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE POLITICAL, MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, UNTIL THE TERMS ARE RIGHT FOR MEANINGFUL CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS ON THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE."

5. FMG "REJECTS" THE "...ANGLO-AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A FUNDAMENTAL AND FAR-REACHING POLITICAL STRUCTURE ON THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WITHOUT THE PRIOR CONSENT OF ALL THE PEOPLE, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FULLY SUPPORTS THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FRONT LINE STATES, THAT THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF A TRANSITIONAL AFRICAN MAJORITY GOVERNMENT IN ZIMBABWE IS AN INALIENABLE AND NON-NEGOTIABLE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, WHICH MUST NOW BE EXERCISED AS A LOGICAL SEQUENCE TO THE ACCEPT-ANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE BY THE REBEL REGIME."

6. FMG CONCLUDED WITH REMINDER TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT OF THE URGENT

NEED TO "CONVENE AN IMMEDIATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, WITH THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF DECIDING THE MODALITIES AND MECHANICS FOR THE TRANSFER OF POWER AND FULL SOVEREIGNTY TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE."

7. COMMENT: FMG'S POSITION IS NOT COMPLETE SURPRISE; NIGERIAN SKEPTICISM HAS BEEN PRESENT FROM THE BEGINNING. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOTE THE RELATIVELY MODERATE TONE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND FACT THAT FMG DID NOT REJECT OUTRIGHT EITHER A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OR FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. FMG DID PUT ON RECORD ITS POSITION THAT ANY TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT MUST BE CONTROLLED BY RHODESIA'S AFRICAN MAJORITY AND THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE'S ARMY MUST BE INCLUDED. ONCE AN AFRICAN CONTROLLED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IS INSTALLED, FMG MAINTAINS THAT "MEANINGFUL" CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS ON TRANSFER OF POWER CAN TAKE PLACE. FMG MAY WELL ENVISION THAT THESE ISSUES SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE TO DRAW UP DETAILS OF A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. IN MEANTIME, FMG WILL SUPPORT ZIMBABWE PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE ARMED STRUGGLE AS THE ONLY PROVEN WAY TO BRING SMITH AROUND TO REASON. FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT BEING SENT SEPTTEL TO SELECTED ADDRESSEES. CROSBY

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